

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /059 W  
-----050403Z 129330 /23

R 041625Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1199  
E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, WB  
SUBJ: SCHUETZ RESIGNS FROM BERLIN SPD CHAIRMANSHIP

REF: USBERLIN 1164

1. ON MAY 3, AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN BONN WITH SPD  
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN BRANDT, KLAUS SCHUETZ ANNOUNCED  
HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN FROM BERLIN SPD CHAIRMANSHIP  
EFFECTIVE NOT LATER THAN THE BERLIN SPD PARTY CONGRESS  
JUNE 4. SCHUETZ' DECISION FOLLOWS BY ONE DAY THE  
ELECTION OF DIETRICH STOBBE AS HIS SUCCESSOR AS  
GOVERNING MAYOR BY BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
ALTHOUGH SCHUETZ'S PARTY FRIENDS IN BERLIN HAD EXPECTED  
HIS RESIGNATION FROM CHAIRMANSHIP SOONER OR LATER,  
ACCORDING TO TAGESSPIEGEL, SUDDENNESS OF DECISION  
WAS SURPRISE. BERLIN SPD BUSINESS MANAGER WEISS TERMED  
RESIGNATION A "PERSONAL DECISION WHICH MUST BE  
ACCEPTED."

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2. NEW GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE SEEMS MOST LIKELY  
REPLACEMENT FOR SCHUETZ AS BERLIN SPD CHAIRMAN,  
AND BERLIN SPD EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS CONVENING SHORTLY  
TO DECIDE ISSUE. SENATOR FOR FINANCE KLAUS  
RIEBSCHLAEGER AND SENATOR FOR BUILDING AND HOUSING  
HARRY RISTOCK, REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL SPD RIGHT  
AND LEFT WINGS, RESPECTIVELY, HAVE ALSO BEEN MENTIONED

AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES. RISTOCK, ASKED IF HE WOULD RUN FOR SPD CHAIRMANSHIP, SAID QUESTION DID NOT ARISE AT PRESENT; HE HAD MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT, NAMELY REBUILDING BERLIN SENAT.

3. GDR NEWSPAPER DEUES DEUTSCHLAND TOOK PARTING SHOT AT SCHUETZ AS HE STEPPED DOWN AS GOVERNING MAYOR, CALLING HIM "COLD WARRIOR" WHOSE RESIGNATION NO ONE WOULD MOURN. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND SO FAR HAS HEAD NO COMMENT ON HIS SUCCESSOR STOBBE. LOCAL AND NATIONAL SPD OFFICIALS WERE FULL OF PRAISE FOR SCHUETZ' DEVOTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND WEST BERLIN PRESS HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED ANY HARSH CRITICISM OF DEPARTING GOVERNING MAYOR.

4. ON STOBBE, MOST OF WEST BERLIN PRESS IS CONTINUING FAVORABLE LINE, BUT MANY EDITORIALISTS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF HIS PARTY AND THE WEST BERLIN GOVERNMENT. AS SPRINGER DAILY BERLINER MORGENPOST PUT IT, WHATEVER STOBBE'S PLANS ARE FOR FRESH FACES AND A NEW STYLE OF GOVERNMENT, THE OLD SPD JUMPS OVER ITS OWN SHADOW ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL OBSERVERS HAVE LONG NOTED THAT OF KLAUS SCHUETZ' OFFICIAL DUTIES, THE ONE HE LIKED LEAST WAS SERVING AS BERLIN SPD CHAIRMAN. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION IN HIS LEAVING THIS POST THAT HE HAS BEEN FORCED OUT. GEORGE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, WB, (SCHUETZ, KLAUS)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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